



# Christian Veterinary Mission

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Christ's Love Expressed  
Through Veterinary Medicine



# Are you a Mature Watermelon?



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**Livestock Poultry Health**  
**Clemson University**  
**Columbia, SC**



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**LIVESTOCK POULTRY  
HEALTH**

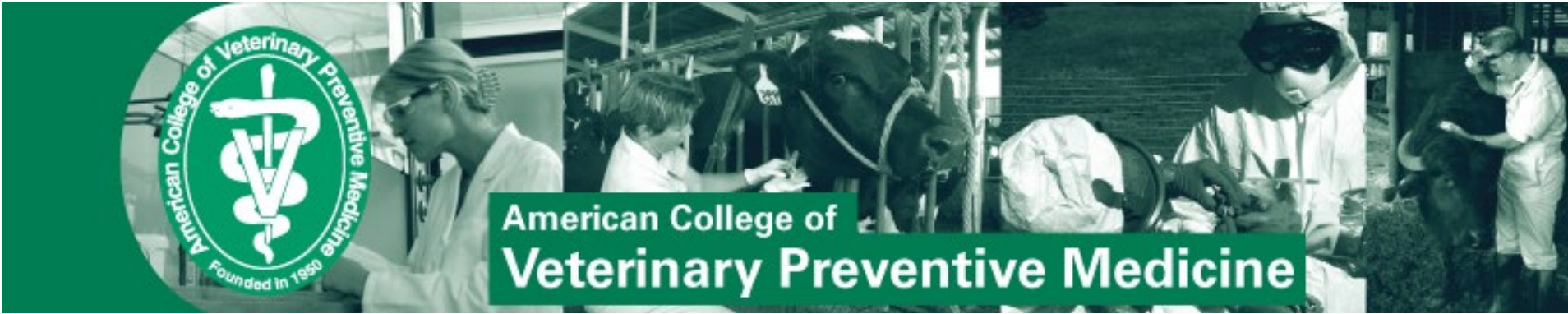




# AABP President 2003



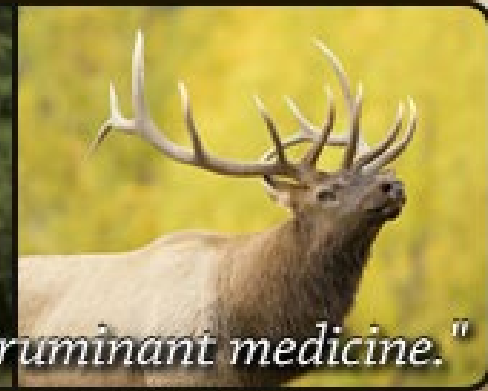
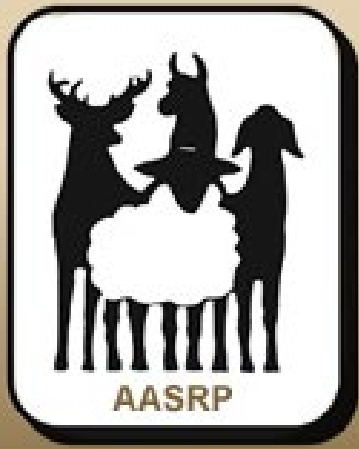
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BOVINE PRACTITIONERS



American College of Veterinary  
Preventive Medicine  
President 2004-06



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*"Making a BIG difference in small ruminant medicine."*

American Association of  
Small Ruminant  
Practitioners  
President 2015-17



# American Association of Extension Veterinarians President 2018-20





2001 Mongolia Short Term Missions



# 2015 Short Term Mission Haiti

# 2015 STM Haiti



# 2015 STM Haiti



# Family





2023 UTK  
#25 Real Life/Real Impact

# HOPE

## In Life's Storms



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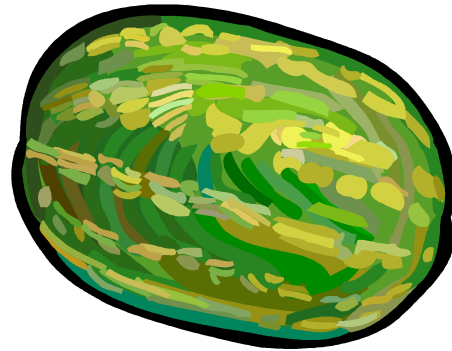
*The Light  
shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness  
has not overcome it.*

-John 1:5



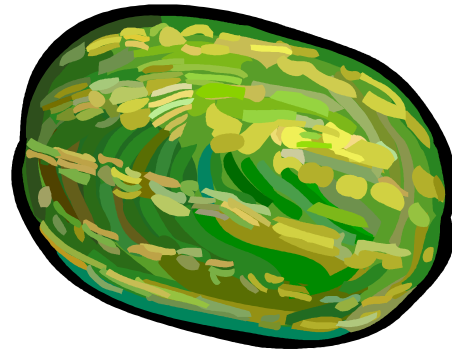
# Are you a mature watermelon?

- It's really hard to spot a mature melon just by\_\_\_\_\_.



# Are you a mature watermelon?

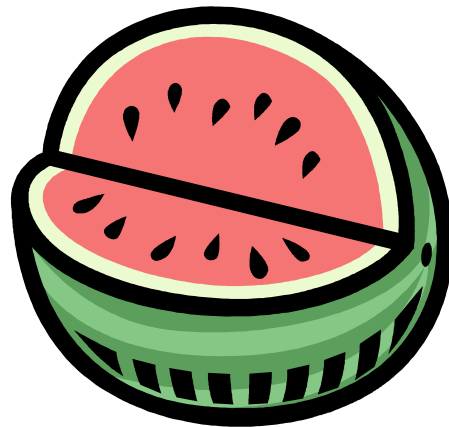
- It's really hard to spot a mature melon just by looking at it.



# Looking at it- Appearance

*7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”*

I Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

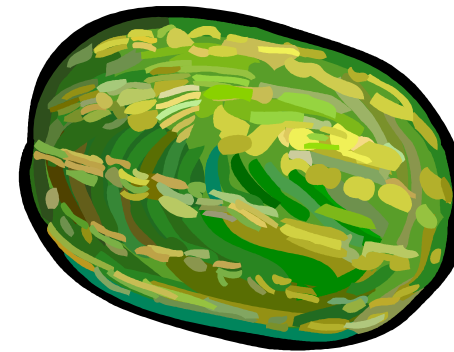


# Are you a mature watermelon?

About the only way to judge the maturity of a melon is to \_\_\_\_\_ it.

# Are you a mature watermelon?

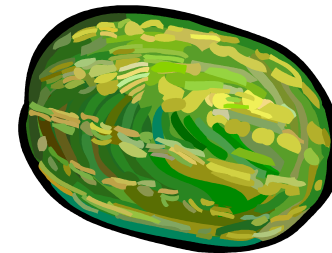
About the only way to judge the maturity of a melon is to **thump** it.



# Are you a mature watermelon?

Things that thump our faith:

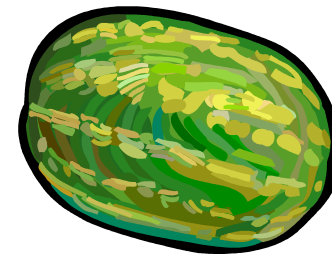
1. Challenging \_\_\_\_\_



# Are you a mature watermelon?

Things that thump our faith:

1. Challenging circumstances



*The Light  
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# Challenging Circumstances

*“The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knows those who take refuge in Him.”*

Nahum 1:7

## **God is able to stop storms**

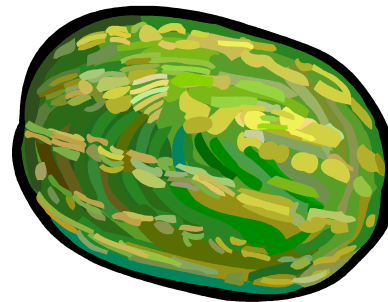
- God gives us His umbrella of peace



# Are you a mature watermelon?

Things that thump our faith:

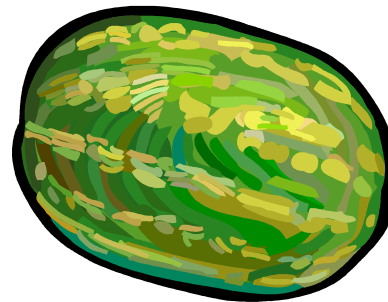
2. Unexpected \_\_\_\_\_



# Are you a mature watermelon?

Things that thump our faith:

2. Unexpected delays



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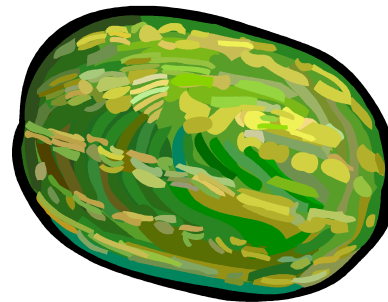
-John 1:5



# Unexpected Delays

*<sup>17</sup> When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, “If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.”*

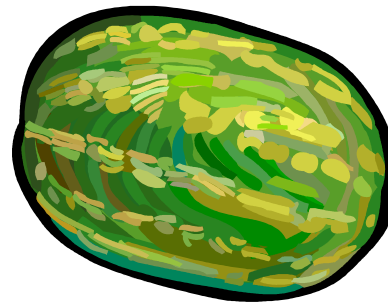
Exodus 13:17 (NIV)



# Unexpected Delays

*<sup>2</sup> Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.*

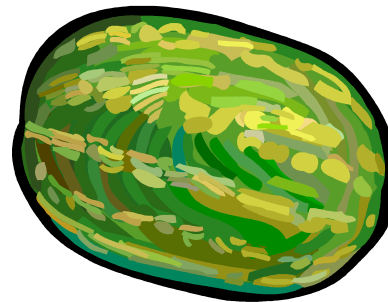
**Deuteronomy 8:2 (NIV)**



# Are you a mature watermelon?

Things that thump our faith:

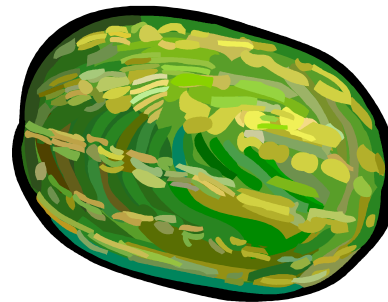
3. Difficult \_\_\_\_\_



# Are you a mature watermelon?

Things that thump our faith:

3. Difficult people



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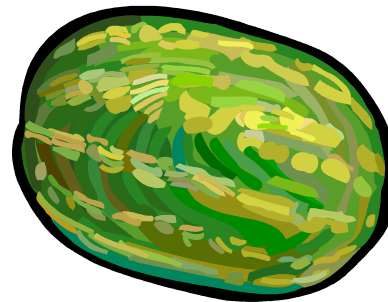
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# Difficult People

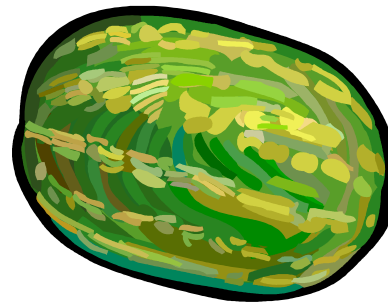
**Jesus-** <sup>44</sup> *But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*

Matthew 5:44 (NIV)



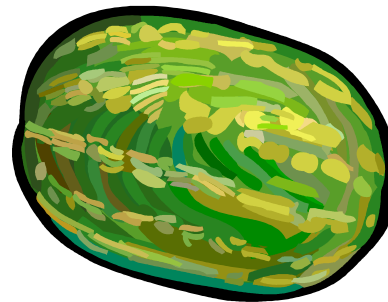
# Are you a mature watermelon?

An immature melon will not continue to ripen  
when it is \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_



# Are you a mature watermelon?

An immature melon will not continue to ripen when it is detached from the vine



# Ripen on the vine

*<sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

John 15:4 (NIV)



# Ripen on the vine

## Jesus Calling by Sarah Young

**“Come to Me and rest. I am all about you, to bless and restore. Breathe Me in with each breath. The way just ahead of you is very steep. Slow down and cling tightly to My hand. I am teaching you a difficult lesson, learned only by hardship.”**



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# Are you a mature watermelon?

What can you do to remain on the vine?

- ✓ **Worship**
- ✓ **Pray**
- ✓ **Quiet time/ read the Bible**
- ✓ **Small Group**
- ✓ **Serve**



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# Are you a mature watermelon?

**DAILY ACTIONS** (how to remain on the vine):

“Lord, what are WE going to do today?”

“Lord, who am I going to connect with today?”



What after taste are you leaving with people today?



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